GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

COVID-19 – Orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) on burning of crackers - Complications in COVID recovered patients due to smoke pollution due to burning crackers -Restricted use of crackers in the State -orders – Issued.

HEALTH MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE (B2) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No. 692 **Dated. 10/11/2020**

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ORDER:

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 05.11.2020 in O. A. No. 249/2020 issued certain directions for remedial action against air pollution due to use of fire crackers aggravating the menace of COVID-19, posing higher danger to the lives and health of the vulnerable groups. The Hon'ble NGT directed to impose ban on sale or use of all kinds of fire crackers in areas where the air quality is Poor, Very Poor and Severe. In cities / towns where air quality is moderate or below, only green crackers be sold and the timings for use and bursting of crackers be restricted to 2 hours i.e., 08.00 pm to 10.00 P.M during Deepavali & Gurpurab; 06.00 am to 08.00 am on Chatt and 11.55 P.M. to 12.30 A.M during Christmas and New Year eve.

2. The AP Pollution Control Board, is monitoring ambient air quality in 20 cities & towns including 13 non-attainment cities in the State. As per the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) order, the Air Quality Index (AQI) of November, 2019 (baseline) in many cities and towns is considered falling between Good to Moderate category only.

3. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed to initiate special drives to contain air pollution from all sources in view of potential of aggravation of COVID-19 and directed that the Chief Secretary and DGP of the State to issue appropriate orders with enforcement guidelines to all the District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police and AP Pollution Control Board (APPCB).

4. The Commissioner Health & Family Welfare, AP has indicated that as on 09.11.2020, as many as 8,16,322 persons recovered from COVID-19 and another 21,235 active cases are under treatment whose lung capacity might be at risk and requested to issue suitable instructions to concerned on restricted use of fire crackers in the interest of covid19 patients (recovered and active) and in the interest of public health at large.

5. After careful examination of the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and proposals of the Commissioner Health & Family Welfare, A.P., Government hereby order that only green crackers shall be sold and used and the timings for use and bursting of crackers is restricted to 2 hours i.e., 08.00 P.M to 10.00 P.M. on Deepavali day. All shops selling crackers shall maintain 10 feet distance between each shop and the persons coming for purchasing the crackers shall be made to maintain 6 feet social distance in the queue before shops. The purchasers shall also be advised to not to use hand sanitizer during the Diwali celebrations but use normal soap in its place while bursting crackers and lighting diyas /candles.

(P.T.O.)

6. The Collectors & District Magistrate, Superintendents of Police/ Commissioner of Police and Municipal Commissioners in the State are instructed implement above National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders across the state.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF GOVERNER OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director General of Police, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.
The Member Secretary, A.P.Pollution Control Board, Vijayawada.
The Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Vijayawada.
All the Collectors & District Magistrates in the State.
All the Superintendents of Police in the State.
All the Municipal Commissioners in the State.
All the executive engineers, APPCB in the State.

Copy to:

PS to the CS.
OSD to Dy. CM(H,FW&ME).
PS to Principal Secretary to Govt.,HM&FW Department.
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER